アンダー・ザ・ブリッジ

UNDER THE BRIDGE

~RHCP and Me~

[axcuse manga]

A bold, heartfelt document spanning 47 pages!!

MangaScreener

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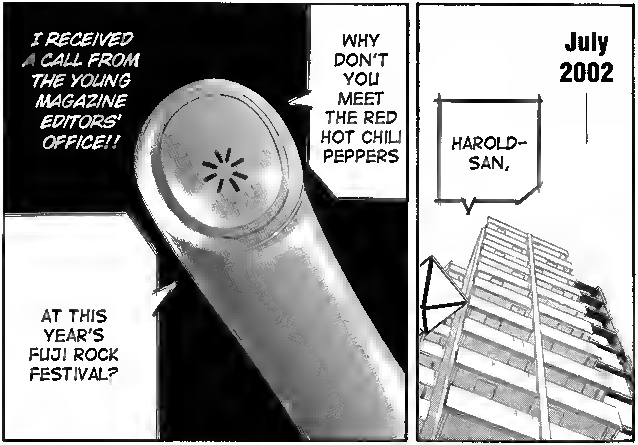
ハロルド作石

HAROLD SAKUISHI

This story originally ran in Young Magazine's May 12th 2003 issue (No. 22-23) It was Harold Sakuishi's first appearance in YM in 5 years, since the end of Stopper Buauyima.

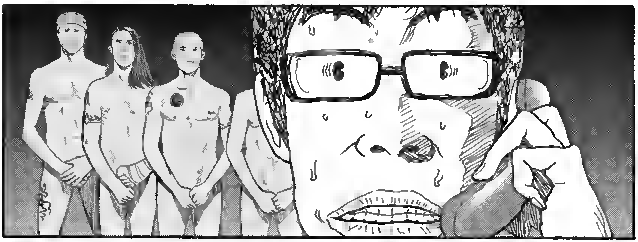
The Red Hot Chili Peppers came to Japan to headline the Fuji Rock Festival on August 28th, 2002 That November, they held a Japan tour, playing seven concerts in five cities This story features their November 10th performence at Saitama Super Arena.

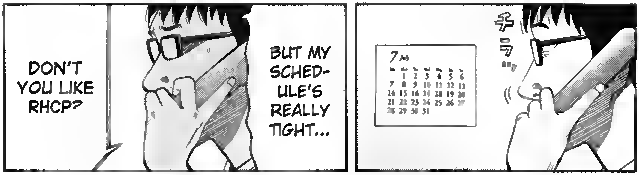
HAROLD MEETS RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS!!!!!?

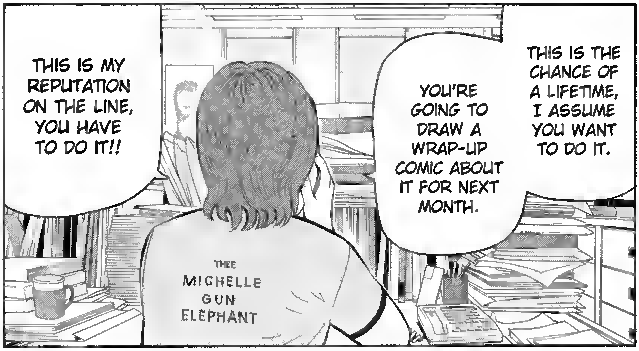

I RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE YOUNG MAGAZINE EDITORS' OFFICE!!
WHY DON'T YOU MEET THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
AT THIS YEAR'S FUJI ROCK FESTIVAL?
July 2002
HAROLD-SAN,

A GROUP THAT ALWAYS GAVE ME THE STRENGTH TO GO ON!
THE CHILI PEPPERS WERE AN IMPORTANT BAND TO ME,

EXACTLY !!
LIKE, THE BAND THEM-SELVES, BACK-STAGE ?



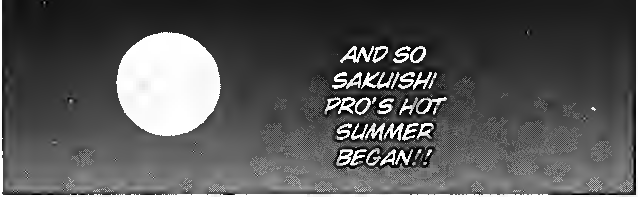

DON'T YOU LIKE RHCP?
BUT MY SCHED-ULE'S REALLY TIGHT...
7月
チラ

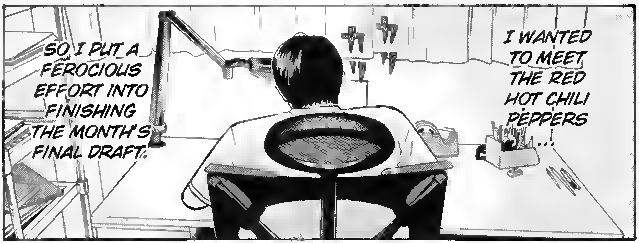

THIS IS MY REPUTATION ON THE LINE, YOU HAVE TO DO IT!!
THEE MICHELLE GUN ELEPHANT
YOU'RE GOING TO DRAW A WRAP-UP COMIC ABOUT IT FOR NEXT MONTH.
THIS IS THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME, I ASSUME YOU WANT TO DO IT.

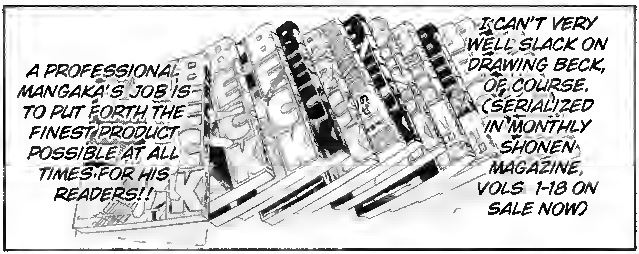
I COULD HARDLY CONCEN-TRATE ON MY WORK.
プルプル
AND SINCE THAT CALL, I WAS SO NERVOUS,
ガチャン

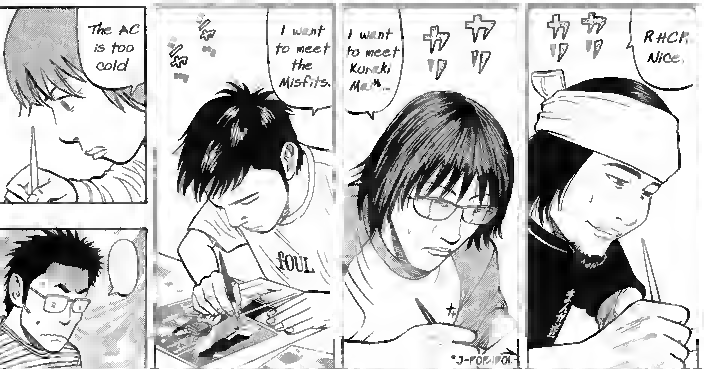
I NEED YOU TO BUST YOUR ASSES TO I CAN GO TO FUJI ROCK!
AND SO I'M GOING TO MEET THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS.

THEY LOOKED AT ME LIKE "WHO GIVES A RAT'S ASS?"
WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING ?!


AND SO SAKUISHI PRO'S HOT SUMMER BEGAN!!


SO, I PUT A FEROCIOUS EFFORT INTO FINISHING THE MONTH'S FINAL DRAFT.
I WANTED TO MEET THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS...!


A PROFESSIONAL MANGAKA'S JOB IS TO PUT FORTH THE FINEST PRODUCT POSSIBLE AT ALL TIMES FOR HIS READERS!!
I CAN'T VERY WELL SLACK ON DRAWING BECK, OF COURSE. (SERIALIZED IN MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE, VOLS. 1-18 ON SALE NOW)


The AC is too cold
I want to meet the Misfits.
I want to meet Koneki Mami.
R.H.C.P. Nice.
SOUL
*J-POP IDOL

FAX Message

Recipient Harold-sama
Sender Young Magazine U-da

OK Harold here s the quick & dirty

We re going to ask that everyone meet up directly in Naeba (Fuji Rock Grounds Entrance) at 6 30 PM tomorrow

There are various other people meeting as well so we need to be absolutely PUNCTUAL

I m looking forward to tomorrow

AND THEN, THE MORNING OF THE TRIP !!

ピピピピ

AM9:30

ウウウウウ

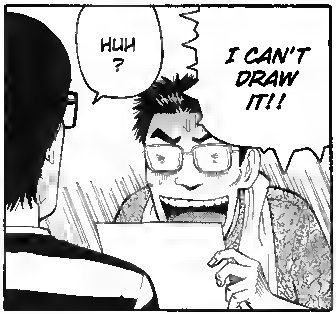
I GIVE MYSELF PROPS FOR STAYING AWAKE 36 HOURS STRAIGHT TO GET THIS DONE.

フウ

IF I KEEP GOING AT THIS PACE, I'LL JUST BARELY MAKE IT.

MY TRAIN LEAVES AT 3, SO I NEED TO BE OUT OF HERE BY 2..

22 YEARS OLD, FRESH INTO TOKYO FROM MIYAZAKI ...
S-MIZU-KUN...


HUH ?
I CAN'T DRAW IT!!

I'M SO NERVOUS I CAN'T DRAW A THING!!
THE PAGE YOU GAVE ME 5 HOURS AGO, HAROLD-SAN...

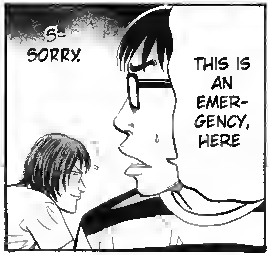
WHAA AAAT ?!
I JUST FROZE UP LIKE A ROCK AND COULDN'T MOVE.
IT'S... TOTALLY BLANK ...
THIS PRO DRAFT IS TOO MUCH PRES-SURE ..
I JUST WISH YOU WOULD HAVE TOLD ME EARLIER ...
HERE, THIS PAGE SHOULD BE SIMPLER.
IT'S MY FAULT.
I'M SORRY
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY YELL AT THE POOR GUY...
ที่ว...
ที่ว..

WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO WORK AS HARD AS I CAN TO GET THIS DONE.
SIGH.. I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS.
I'M GONNA MEET THE CHILI PEPPERS TONIGHT !!
Chili Peppers

AM11:00
UMMM, HAROLD-SAN.
I NEED TO GET GOING TO NAKATE-MA-SAN'S PLACE ...
KIMUTAKU LOOKALIKE S-MA-KUN IS AN ASSISTANT-FOR-HIRE WORKING FOR THREE DIFFERENT ARTISTS (SLIGHTLY TIRED TODAY).
OK THEN, TELL NAKATE-MA-KUN I SAID HI.
WILL DO.
UNG GG.
OUU UCCH ...
WHAT'S WRONG, M-NAKA-CHAN?!

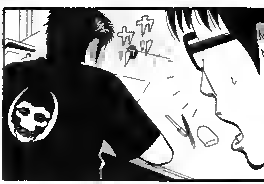
M-NAKA NOBUYUKI... THE CORNER-STONE OF SAKUISHI PRO, BORN WITH AN INNATE GENIUS FOR MANGA...
OUCH ...
BUT HIS SOLE WEAKNESS IS HIS PROPENSITY FOR GETTING HURT!!
GOT A STOMACH-ACHE?
YEAH, I THINK THAT RICE OMELETTE GOT TO ME.
AND LOOK, MY FEVER'S AT 37 DEGREES ON THE DOT.
WELL, I'D BETTER TAKE IT EASY.
チラッ
TAR, THE PHANTAS-MAGORIC MEMBER OF SAKUISHI PRO, WHO POSSESSES MANY A TALENT...

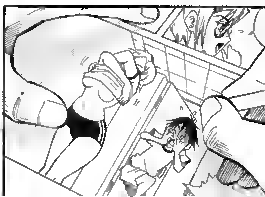
(THE OFFICE'S TEMPERATURE IS KEPT LOW TO MAKE SURE HE STAYS AWAKE.)
ZZZZ
SUCH AS THE INCREDIBLE ABILITY TO FALL ASLEEP WHILE SITTING IN A WORK POSITION!!


S-SORRY.
THIS IS AN EMER-GENCY, HERE

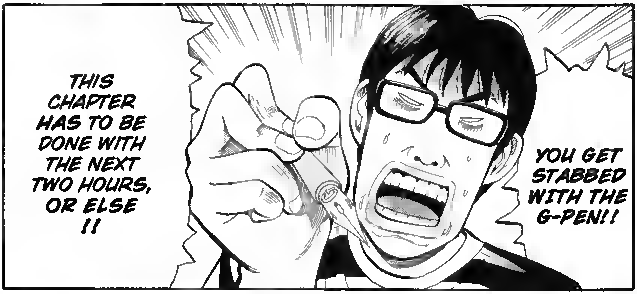
WAKE UP!!

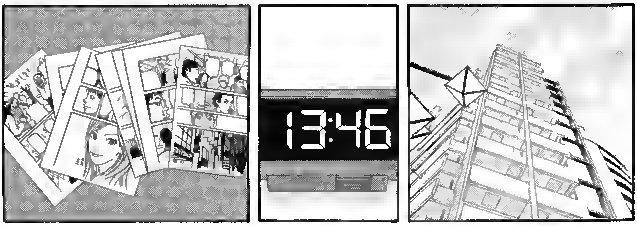
THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE BECK TO ME.
S-CHAN ...
S-DA S-ICHI HASIBEEN DRAWING MANY ECCHI MANGAS LATELY.
BUSTED.





IF I SEE ANY ACTIVITY THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ABSOLUTE DEVOTION TO MEETING THE DEADLINE...
NOW, IS THAT CLEAR ENOUGH FOR YOU ?
PM12:00


THIS CHAPTER HAS TO BE DONE WITH THE NEXT TWO HOURS, OR ELSE !!
YOU GET STABBED WITH THE G-PEN!!


13:46

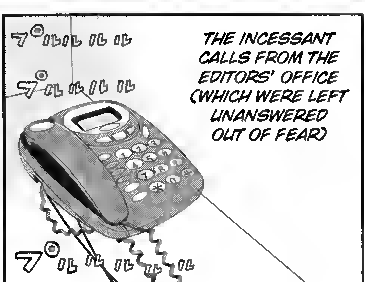
SEE, YOU REALLY CAN SURVIVE ON PURE GUTS AND EFFORT ALONE!!
YEAH, IT'S ALL OVER!!

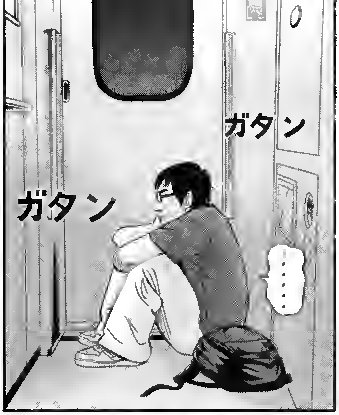
IT'S TIME TO GO MEET THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS YAAAAY !!
YEOW WWW !!
ピン
スス
スス

UMMM, HAROLD-SAN?
I BELIEVE THAT WAS THE SPECIFIED PUNISH-MENT FOR SLEEPING.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO STAB ME.
WAS I SLEEP-ING?
IT'S ALREADY 2:50.
サッ
YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK. .
ACTUALLY, WE WERE ASLEEP, TOO...
WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME UP?!
IT'S NAIVE TO ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GO TO NAEBA AND SEE RHCP!
WITH THE KIND OF SCHEDULE WE RUN...

AND IN THE END,
WE DIDN'T FINISH THE FINAL DRAFT UNTIL AFTER 7:00 P.M.

EVENTUALLY STOPPED COMING ALTOGETHER
...


THE INCESSANT CALLS FROM THE EDITORS' OFFICE (WHICH WERE LEFT UNANSWERED OUT OF FEAR)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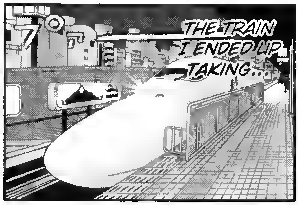
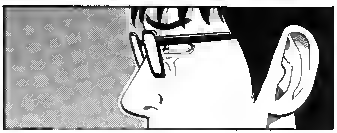
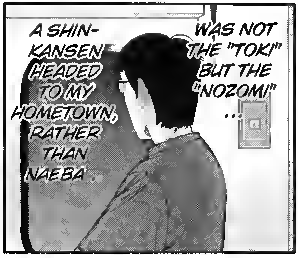

THE TRAIN I ENDED UP TAKING...




A SHIN-KANSEN HEADED TO MY HOMETOWN, RATHER THAN NAEBA
WAS NOT THE "TOKI" BUT THE "NOZOMI"
...

ガァ――ッ
IT WAS ALL OVER !!

THIS IS IT.
ER
THIS CRAMPED LITTLE HALL IS THE PLACE I FIRST SAW RHCP, YE_RS AGO... (I BOUGHT THE TICKET THE DAY OF THE CONCERT)
ACK!
WHEN I WALKED P_ST THE PLACE BEFORE THE SHOW
THERE WAS JOHN, LEAVING THE BUILDING !!

FANS RUSHED IN AROUND HIM, SEEKING AUTOGRAPHS AND HANDSHAKES (ALL SILENT).

HIS HEAD WAS SHAVED FLAT.

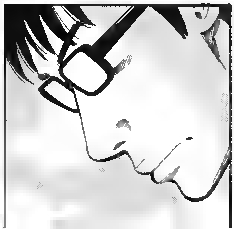
I WAS TOO NERVOUS TO EVEN JOIN THEM, MUCH AS I WANTED TO.

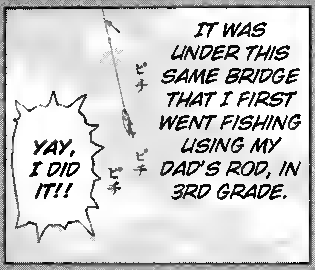
JOHN HAD LEFT THE PLACE TO GO BACK TO HIS HOTEL BECAUSE HE DIDN'T FEEL LIKE PLAYING ...
ACCORDING TO WHAT I READ LATER,

I LOST MY ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE TO SEE THE GREATEST BAND IN THE WORLD...

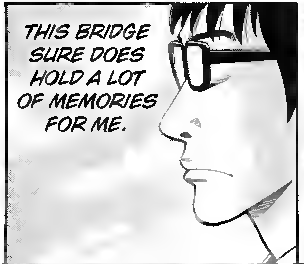
BUT NONE OF THAT MATTERS NOW.

NOW I'M ALONE IN MY HOMETOWN

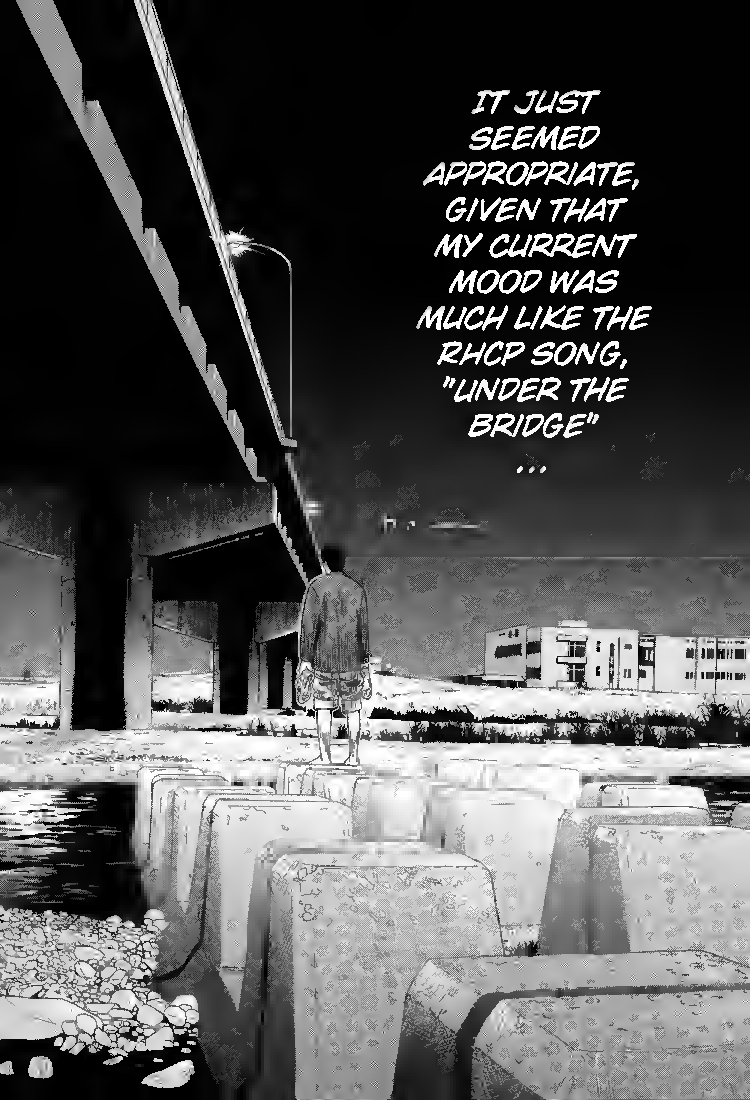


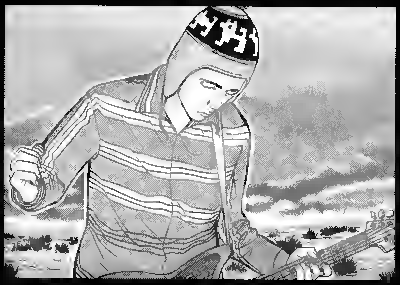


(NOTE: A SHIRAHAE IS ALSO KNOWN AS AN OIKAWA, A TYPE OF MINNOW.)

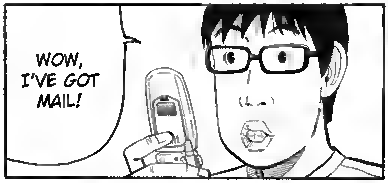


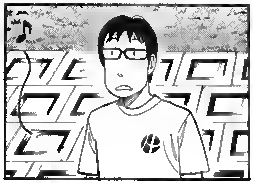
A FEW YEARS AGO, I WAS STRUGGLING TO [illegible] ANY IDEA TO USE FOR A NEW MANGA...
AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF AGONY...
I SET OUT ON AN AUTUMN NIGHT,
AND WALKED INTO THE RIVER UNDER THIS BRIDGE BY MYSELF.
I WASN'T GOING TO COMMIT SUICIDE OR ANYTHING.
WHOA, IT'S DEEP!
AND COLD!


IT JUST SEEMED APPROPRIATE, GIVEN THAT MY CURRENT MOOD WAS MUCH LIKE THE RHCP SONG, "UNDER THE BRIDGE"
...



"I don't ever want to feel like I did that day."



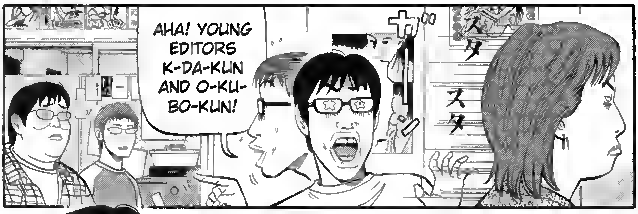


What the hell happened?!
Forget about what happened, please come back to us.
We're worried
If I don't have any work, I can't do my customary shopping in Daikanyama and Ebisu on the way home(>_<)
Please bring me back a Houraiken hitsumabushi bento for my souvenir m(__)m

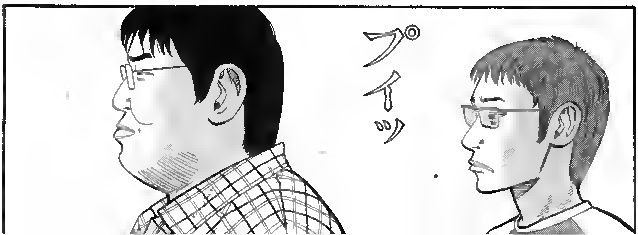
(NOTE. HITSUMABUSHI IS A NAGOYAN SPECIALITY DISH MADE WITH EEL.)

THE FIRST THING I SHOULD DO
IS MAKE A SINCERE APOLOGY !!
HS
フォーン
HELLO?
K-dansha
Y-maga-zine Editors' Office
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY!!
OH! U-DA-SAN, THANKS FOR THE RHCP OFFER!
ﾀﾞﾀﾞﾀﾞﾀﾞ

プイッ


AHA! YOUNG EDITORS K-DA-KUN AND O-KU-BO-KUN!
スタスタ

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR HELP WITH THIS YEAR'S SANDLOT TEAM!!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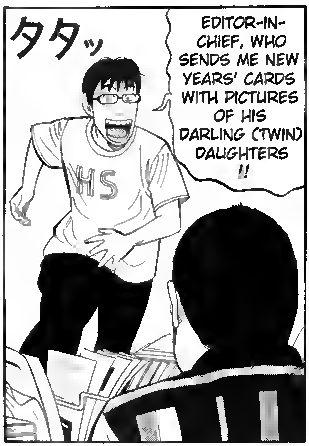
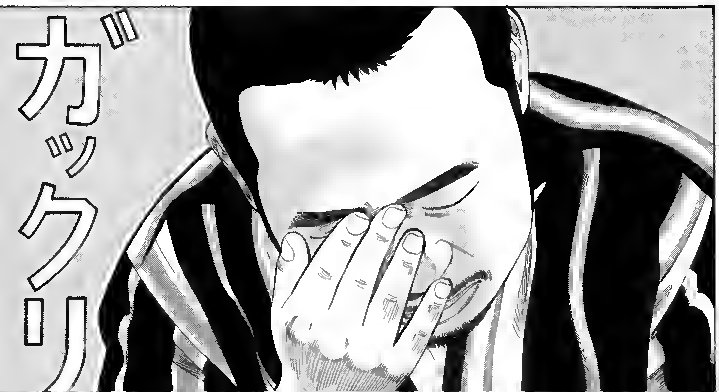

タタッ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, WHO SENDS ME NEW YEARS' CARDS WITH PICTURES OF HIS DARLING (TWIN) DAUGHTERS !!

POWER BOX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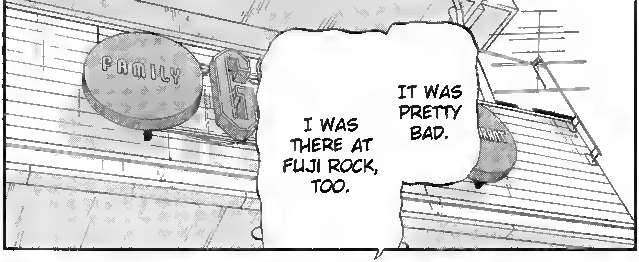
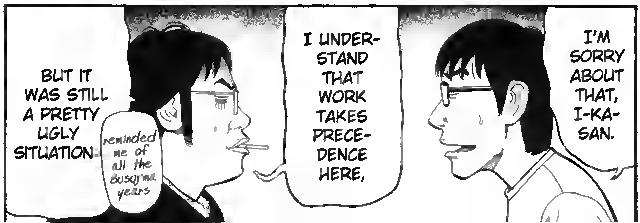
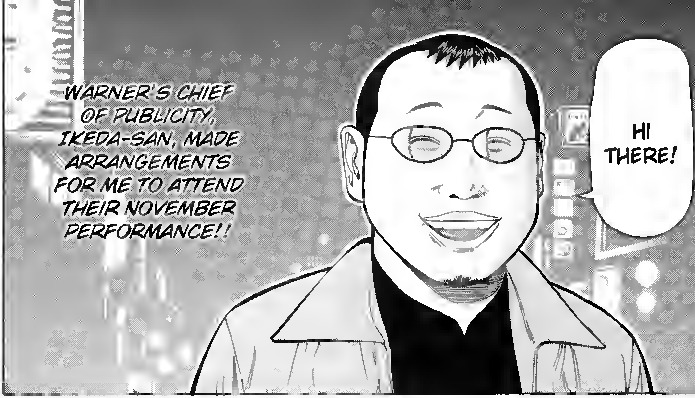

FAMILY
I WAS THERE AT FUJI ROCK, TOO.
IT WAS PRETTY BAD.

WE JUST COULDN'T TELL HIM THAT YOU DITCHED US.
THE MANAGER FROM WARNER RECORDS WAS THERE, HE WAS REALLY NICE.

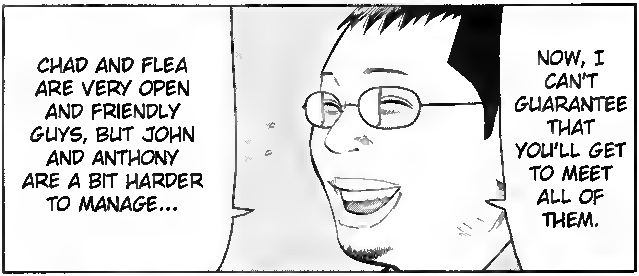
HAROLD-SAAAAN !!
U-DA-SAN AND I HAD TO PRETEND TO LOOK FOR YOU, EVEN THOUGH WE KNEW YOU WEREN'T COMING!!


BUT IT WAS STILL A PRETTY UGLY SITUATION
reminded me of all the bosozoku years
I UNDER-STAND THAT WORK TAKES PRECE-DENCE HERE,
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT, I-KA-SAN.

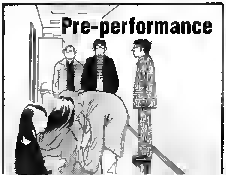
HUH ?
SO WHEN'S THE NEXT TIME?
THE NEXT TIME I GET TO MEET THE CHILI PEPPERS!
YOU THINK THERE'S ANY WAY IN HELL WE'RE GIVING YOU ANOTHER CHANCE, AFTER THE WAY YOU SKIPPED OUT ON US?!
BUT,


WARNER'S CHIEF OF PUBLICITY, IKEDA-SAN, MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ME TO ATTEND THEIR NOVEMBER PERFORMANCE!!
HI THERE!

ABSO-LUTELY!
SHALL WE GO?

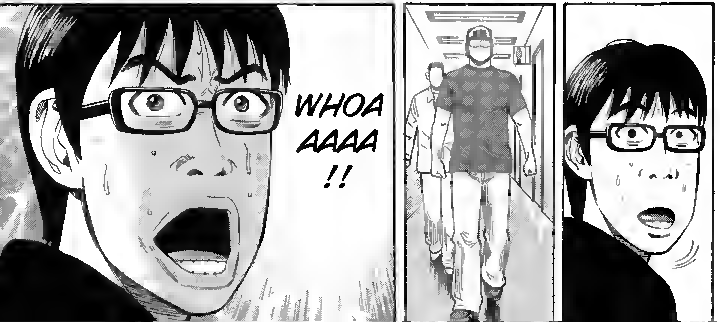

CHAD AND FLEA ARE VERY OPEN AND FRIENDLY GUYS, BUT JOHN AND ANTHONY ARE A BIT HARDER TO MANAGE...
NOW, I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT YOU'LL GET TO MEET ALL OF THEM.

I'M SO NERVOUS...
I'M FINALLY GOING TO MEET THEM...

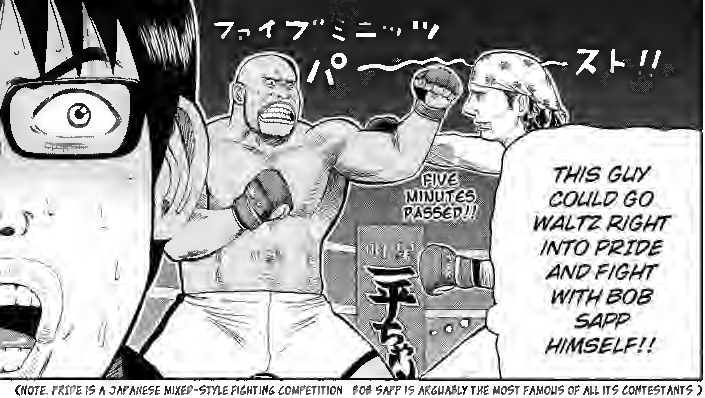

Pre-performance

Saitama Super Arena

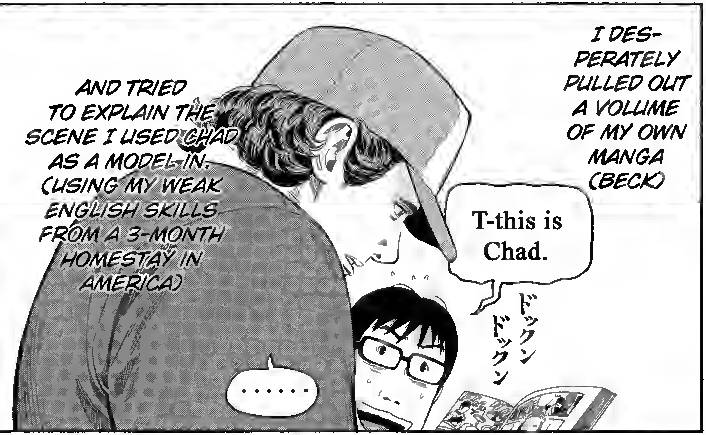
(*OF MORNING MUSUME) (*OF THE 3-TOP PUO W)

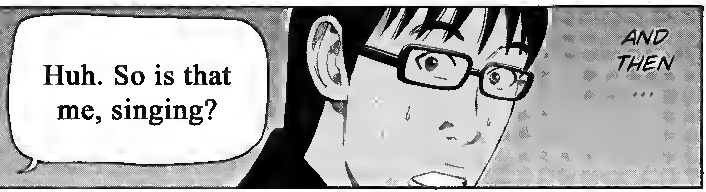


USA
Konni-chiwa.
CHAD!! (DRUMMER)
HE'S FREAKIN' HUGE!!
So you draw some comic or something?
ガチーン



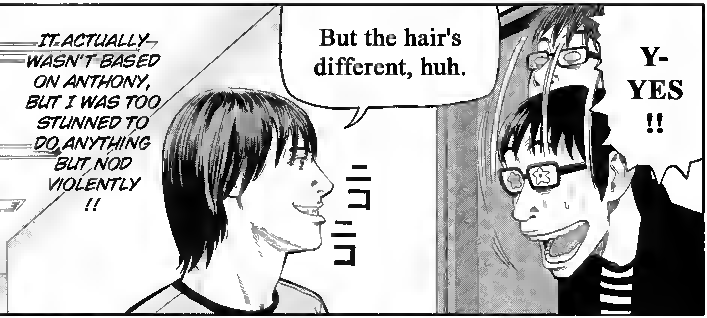
(NOTE. PRIDE IS A JAPANESE MIXED-STYLE FIGHTING COMPETITION. BOB SAPP IS ARGUABLY THE MOST FAMOUS OF ALL ITS CONTESTANTS.)


I DES-PERATELY PULLED OUT A VOLUME OF MY OWN MANGA (BECK)
AND TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE SCENE I USED CHAD AS A MODEL IN. (USING MY WEAK ENGLISH SKILLS FROM A 3-MONTH HOMESTAY IN AMERICA)
T-this is Chad.
ドックン
ドックン
.....

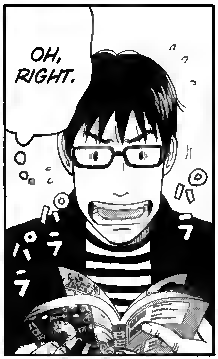


A-
ANTHONY
!!

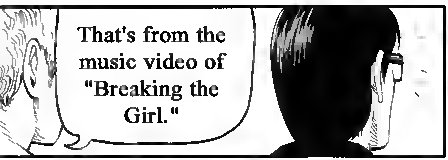
THE SUPPOSEDLY TEMPERAMENTAL ANTHONY KIEDIS (VOCALS) ...
WAS STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO ME WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE !!
ニコ
ニコ


IT ACTUALLY WASN'T BASED ON ANTHONY, BUT I WAS TOO STUNNED TO DO ANYTHING BUT NOD VIOLENTLY !!
But the hair's different, huh.
Y-YES !!

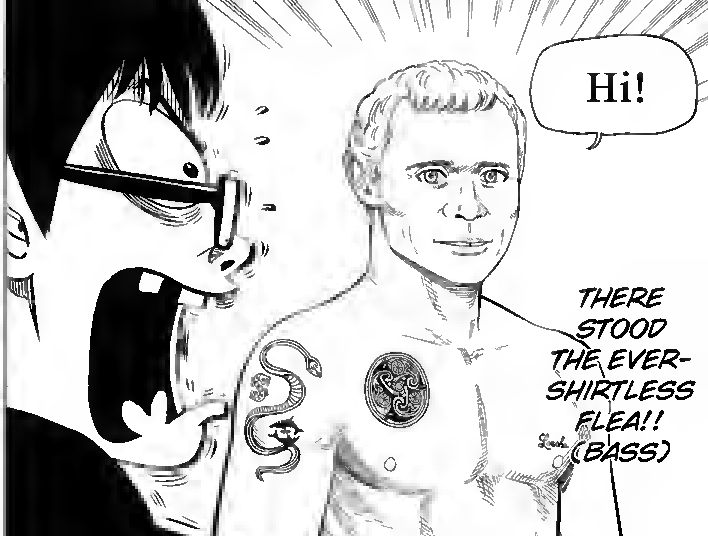
This is Anthony.
Beck


OH, RIGHT.
パラ
パラ

Video clip, video clip!!
?

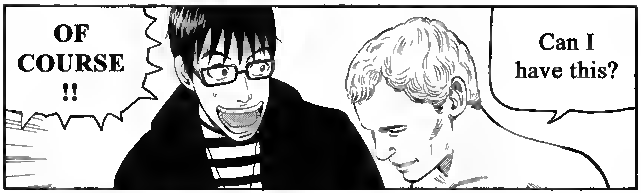

That's from the music video of "Breaking the Girl."

THEN, WHEN I TURNED AROUND AGAIN...
HUH ?



(NO. 5 KEWPIE IS A VERY OLD AND RECOGNIZABLE LINE OF DOLLS.)

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
Oh, "Breaking the Girl," now I remember. (Anthony)
ME, THE BOY WHO CAUGHT A 9CM SHIRAHAE UNDER A BRIDGE ...
I'M SURROUNDED BY THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS, THE GREATEST BAND IN THE WORLD!!


OF COURSE !!
Can I have this?

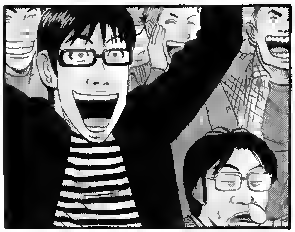
John!
AT THAT POINT, JOHN (GUITAR) PASSED BY ...
NEXT

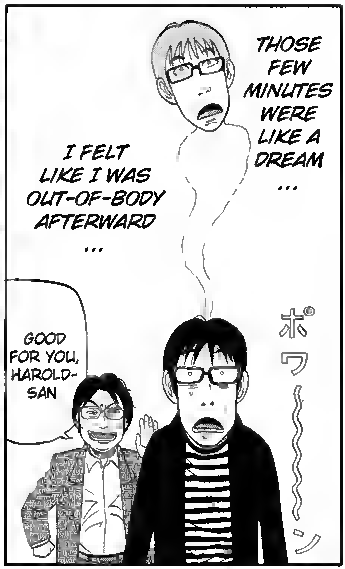
バタン
BUT JOHN DISINTERESTEDLY IGNORED THE MANAGER AND WENT INTO THE DRESSING ROOM.

Oh, thanks a lot, man.
ガッチリ
I've been to four of your concerts before.

Well, I hope you enjoy the show tonight.
THE MEMBERS OF THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS DIDN'T ACT LIKE BIGSHOT STARS AROUND ME...
THEY WERE ALL OPEN, FRIENDLY AND SOCIABLE.
そそくさ…
HUH? DIDN'T YOU WANT THE BOOK, FLEA?!
I BECAME EVEN MORE OF A FAN AFTER MEETING THEM IN PERSON!!
I GAVE THE BECK VOLUME TO THEIR TOUR MANAGER.
PLEASE GIVE THIS TO FLEA FOR ME.
Thanks.

ウォー




THOSE FEW MINUTES WERE LIKE A DREAM ...
I FELT LIKE I WAS OUT-OF-BODY AFTERWARD ...
ポワーン
GOOD FOR YOU, HAROLD-SAN

ウォォォ

IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE
...
I'D JUST MET THEM NO MORE THAN AN HOUR AGO...

THE CONCERT WAS EXCELLENT.
IT ONLY REINFORCED MY OPINION OF THEIR LIVE SHOWS.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TOLD OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT THEM ...
ANTHONY AND FLEA ARE ACTUALLY REALLY SMALL!
AND FLEA KIND OF ACTS LIKE A KID.
IT'S HARD TO SUMMON THE SAME SENSE OF REALITY ...
BUT ...
チラッ

IT WASN'T A DREAM ..

I REALLY DID MEET THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS !!

THANK YOU, IKEDA-SAN FROM WARNER RECORDS !!

THANK YOU, YOUNG MAGAZINE !!

I'M THE LUCKIEST MAN ALIVE !!

- Tom Morello
- Edward Norton
- Kevin Spacey
- OASIS
- Antonio Nogueira
- Beyonce
- Sade

AND SO I WAS NEVER CALLED UPON TO DRAW A MANGA ABOUT CELEBRITIES AGAIN.
OH, AND THIS IS THE LIST OF JAPANESE STARS...
SHUT UP. JUST SHUT UP.
~The End~

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